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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY
IN AFRICA
Eighth session
Geneva, 5-16 February 1996
Agenda item 2

PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. The present document was prepared in accordance with INCD decision 7/8, which requested the Secretariat to prepare, for the eighth session, a draft decision of the Conference of the Parties on communication of information and review of implementation based on document A/AC.241/39, on comments and suggestions in Working Group II and on contributions received in writing.

2. The document comprises (a) a draft recommendation of the INCD to the Conference of the Parties, (b) a draft decision of the Conference of the Parties, and (c) draft procedures on communication of information and review of implementation in the form of an annex to the decision.

3. Since no written contributions were received after the seventh session, the document is based entirely on document A/AC.241/39 and on comments and suggestions at the seventh session. INCD members will note that paragraphs 3 to 7 reproduce to a large extent the provisions of article 26 of the Convention. This approach was chosen to ensure greater comprehensiveness and clarity of the procedures.

GE.95-64596

Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234, of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention, which provides that each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention and that the Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and on the basis of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge,

Recalling further article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, and determine the form and timetable for transmitting the information to be submitted pursuant to article 26, review the reports and make recommendations on them,

Conscious of the desirability of adopting procedures to organize and streamline the communication of information,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on this issue,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

PROCEDURES FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

1. The purpose of the present procedures is to organize and streamline the communication of information pursuant to article 26 of the Convention in order to facilitate the regular review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, and to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention.

2. Specific objectives of the procedures include the following:

(a) to ensure the effective assessment of progress toward achieving the objectives of the Convention and to enable the Conference of the Parties to make appropriate recommendations to further those objectives;

(b) to exchange information and data among Parties in order to maximize the benefits of successful measures and initiatives under the Convention;

(c) to ensure that the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism have access to information and data necessary to carry out their mandate; and

(d) to ensure that information on implementation is in the public domain and available to the international community, particularly intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities.

General obligation to report

3. Each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention.

4. Affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to article 5 of the Convention and of any relevant information on their implementation.

5. Affected country Parties which implement action programmes pursuant to articles 9 to 15 of the Convention shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and their implementation.

6. In addition to reports on action programmes pursuant to paragraph 5, any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication, directly or through a competent subregional or regional organization, on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in implementation of the Convention.

7. Developed country Parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.

8. Parties are encouraged to make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparation of reports and in the dissemination of relevant information.

9. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are encouraged to provide information, as appropriate, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention.

Format and content of reports

10. Reports should be as concise as possible to facilitate their review. They should be structured as follows, taking into account the degree of development of action programmes and other relevant circumstances:

(a) reports on national action programmes

(i) a table of contents

(ii) a summary not exceeding six pages

(iii) the strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies

(iv) the institutional measures taken to implement the Convention

(v) the participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme

(vi) the consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the national action programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities

(vii) the measures taken or planned in the framework of the national action programmes, including measures to improve the economic environment, measures to conserve natural resources, measures to improve institutional organization, measures to improve knowledge of desertification and measures to monitor and assess the effects of drought

(viii) financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(ix) a review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(b) reports on joint, subregional and regional action programmes

(i) a table of contents

(ii) a summary not exceeding six pages

(iii) the areas of cooperation under the programme and measures taken or planned

(iv) the consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the subregional or regional action programmes and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities

(v) financial allocations by affected country Parties of the subregion or region in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements

(vi) a review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof

(c) reports of developed country Parties

(i) a table of contents

(ii) a summary not exceeding six pages

(iii) the consultative processes and partnership agreements in which they are involved

(iv) measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally

(d) reports of affected developed country Parties not preparing action programmes

(i) a table of contents

(ii) a summary not exceeding six pages

(iii) the strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and any relevant information on their implementation

11. Information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, should include summaries not exceeding four pages.

Language of reports

12. Reports shall be communicated to the Interim Secretariat in one of the official languages of the Conference of the Parties.

Timetable for the submission of reports

13. The Conference of the Parties shall initiate, at its third session, review of the reports submitted by the Parties, alternating between affected African country Parties and affected country Parties of other regions. At its third session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affected African country Parties. At its fourth session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affected country Parties of other regions. Such rotation shall apply to subsequent sessions.

14. Developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to do likewise.

15. Reports shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat at least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed.

Compilation and synthesis by the Permanent Secretariat

16. The Secretariat shall compile the summaries of reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs 3 to 7, and of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on measures taken or planned in support of implementation of the Convention.

17. The Secretariat shall prepare, in addition, a synthesis of the reports setting out the trends apparent in the implementation of the Convention.

Review process

18. Reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism consistent with their respective mandates, shall constitute the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties.

Periodic reports

19. After the third session and following every subsequent session of the Conference of the Parties, the Permanent Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing the major conclusions of the review process.

Official documents

20. Documents prepared by the Permanent Secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 15 to 17 shall constitute official documents of the Conference of the Parties.[1]

Availibility of reports

21. All reports communicated to the Secretariat in accordance with the present procedures, as well as institutional information pursuant to paragraph 22, shall be in the public domain. The Secretariat shall make available copies of the reports to any interested Parties and other entities or individuals through the most efficient and least expensive channels of communication, including computer networks and electronic media.

Communication of institutional information to the Secretariat

22. To facilitate exchanges of information and informal contacts within and outside the review process, Parties shall communicate to the Secretariat, as soon as practicable, information concerning the names, addresses and phone numbers of national, subregional, and regional focal points and ccordinating bodies, the membership of national coordinating committees and lists of participants in consultative processes.

23. The Permanent Secretariat shall keep in data bases and/or directories, and regularly update, information provided in accordance with the present procedures.

Assistance to developing country Parties in the preparation of reports

24. The Permanent Secretariat shall, on request and within the limits of its resources, assist affected developing country Parties, particularly affected African country Parties among them, in the preparation of reports pursuant to the present procedures, or seek such assistance from bilateral donors and/or competent intergovernmental organizations.

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[1] It is recalled that, in accordance with rules 60 and 61 of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, official documents are to be made available in all official languages of the Conference of the Parties and, to the extent possible, at least six weeks prior to each session.